

Riparian forests grow predominantly along river banks and are highly resistant to the unfavourable conditions resulting from the hot climate here. Long-time residents recall that in the middle and lower course of the Kura the banks were covered with dense thickets of trees. However, human economic activity has been exceedingly harmful to them.

The first thing the foresters did was to establish some small seed orchards, where they concentrated on growing saplings and cuttings of undemanding trees such as oleaster, ash and pine. In a single year, more than 100,000 cuttings and hundreds of kilogrammes of seed material have been obtained.

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Major Shortcomings in the Arrangements for Combatting Forest Fires

Every year, between 12,000 and 30,000 forest fires are recorded in our country. Fire envelops up to two million hectares of forest lands. This is commensurate with the area of principal felling and the volumes of reforestation work. What is the situation today among those who are responsible for fighting forest fires and minimizing the resulting losses? This problem was the subject of a "round table," organized by our editorial staff at the offices of the Production Association for Aerial Protection of Forests in Pushkino, Moscow Oblast'.